

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, ENRG, IN, UK

SUBJECT: INDIA AND FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS

1. BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR TONY REEVE, DURING JUNE 27
CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOSENZO BROUGHT UP
ISSUE OF INDIA AND FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. REEVE LEFT AIDE
MEMOIRE WHICH STATED THAT DURING DESAI'S RECENT VISIT TO
LONDON, SHANKAR HAD SUGGESTED THAT ONE MEANS OF FACILI-
TATING INDIA'S ACCEPTANCE OF FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS MIGHT BE
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE,
OUTSIDE THE IAEA, AND PERHAPS UNDER THE SSOD, WHICH COULD
DECIDE WHAT SAFEGUARDS WERE NECESSARY TO PREVENT ANY DIVER-
SION OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES FROM PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

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THE AIDE MEMOIRE SAID THAT FCO OFFICIALS SAW FORMIDABLE
DIFFICULTIES WITH SHANKAR'S APPROACH, PARTICULARLY THE
DANGER THAT SUCH AN APPROACH COULD UNDERMINE THE IAEA AND
PROVIDE INDIA WITH AN OPEN-ENDED EXCUSE FOR DELAY ON AC-
CEPTING SAFEGUARDS. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS CONCLUDED,
HOWEVER, THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ADAPT IT IN SUCH A
WAY AS TO DEVELOP THE DIALOGUE ON SAFEGUARDS WITH INDIA IN

THE HOPE OF MAKING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR INDIA TO DROP THE SUBJECT. THE AIDE MEMOIRE SUGGESTED THAT AS A FIRST STEP THAT INDIA BE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF BRITAIN OR SOME OTHER STATE OR GROUP OF STATES SENT A

TEAM OF EXPERT SCIENTISTS TO EXPLAIN TO THE INDIANS WHY THE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS WOULD NOT HAVE ANY KIND OF DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. REEVE ASKED FOR STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON THE BRITISH VIEWS.

2. ON JUNE 28, THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED ORALLY THAT WE SHARED BRITAIN'S CONCERNS ABOUT SHANKAR'S PROPOSAL BUT ALSO AGREED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ADAPT THEM IN SUCH A WAY AS TO DEVELOP A DIALOGUE WITH INDIA ON THE SUBJECT OF SAFEGUARDS. WE NOTED THAT DURING THE DESAI VISIT TO WASHINGTON, SHANKAR HAD RAISED THE ISSUE WITH US ALONG SIMILAR LINES. WE HAD SUGGESTED TO SHANKAR AT THAT TIME THAT AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR INDIA AND THE US (OR ANOTHER WESTERN STATE) TO EACH APPOINT A DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST WITH EXPERTISE IN NUCLEAR PROGRAMS AND SAFEGUARDS. THESE TWO SCIENTISTS WOULD JOINTLY AGREE ON OTHER SIMILARLY QUALIFIED MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES WITH SUBSTANTIAL NUCLEAR PROGRAMS AND SAFEGUARDS EXPERIENCE WHO WOULD SERVE IN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES. THESE SCIENTISTS WOULD PREPARE A REPORT THAT WOULD ASSESS THE NET IMPACT, BUT NOT THE EFFICACY OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS UPON

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NATIONAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS INDIA'S AND ADDRESS INDIAN QUESTION ON THE IMPACT OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON ITS PROGRAM. SHANKAR AGREED TO CONSIDER THIS. DEPARTMENT TOLD BRITISH EMBASSY THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THIS APPROACH, SINCE IT INVOLVES INDIA AS WELL AS WESTERN SCIENTISTS, WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO INDIA THAN UK PROPOSAL TO SEND A BRITISH OR OTHER NATIONAL TEAM TO INDIA TO EXPLAIN THE IMPACT OF SAFEGUARDS.

3. SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW ON NEXT STEPS IN OUR NUCLEAR DIALOGUE WITH INDIA. VANCE

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